

February 20, 2017

Dear Honorable Members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Fran Traceski and I live in Canton. I am the parent of Lauren Traceski, a young lady with an Intellectual Disability. I am testifying today on the impact of the Governor's budget on people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

I am asking that you restore funding for day and employment services for new graduates to the proposed budget. And that you please support the Governor's proposal to invest \$3.8 million in the ID Partnership which will help people on the DDS residential waiting list, support developing more residential options for people with I/DD and stabilize community based supports.

I want to tell you how absolutely devastating the Governor's proposed budget would be for all of the young people with intellectual disabilities who will be graduating from secondary school in the next two years and thereafter. My own daughter was able to obtain employment services immediately post high school where she has been able to thrive. She has made steady progress toward the day when she will be independently employed and live on her own as a happy and productive member of this community. All of our children deserve this chance – to whatever extent their abilities will allow. Can you imagine the negative impact of sitting at home with no available services for all of the 2017/2018 graduates and presumably all those in future years who will need to be on some kind of waiting list? The steady development and progress that they were able to achieve while in the school system quickly regressing in their isolation? What kind of a society will we become once we started down this path of telling those most in need of our support "you are on your own..."? Please do not allow this to happen.

Please restore funding for day and employment services for new graduates!

And please support the Governor's proposal to invest \$3.8 million in the ID Partnership which will help people on the DDS residential waiting list, support developing more residential options for people with I/DD and stabilize community based supports.

Thank you for your time and efforts.

Sincerely,

Francis J. Traceski

5 Deer Run Rd
Canton, CT 06019

Copy:

Representative Tim LeGyett
Senator Kevin Witcos